

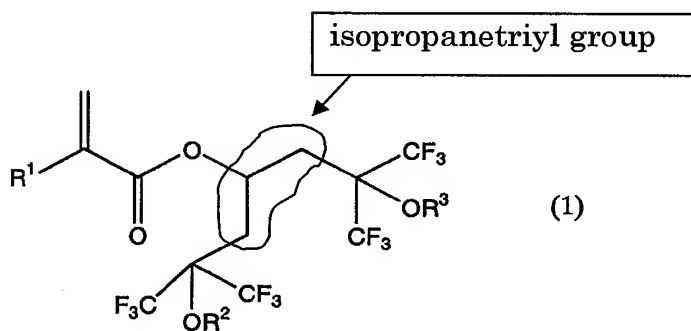
REMARKS

Claim 12 has been amended to correct a typographical error. The amendment of claim 1 does not contain new matter, since formula (14) clearly has three units, not two units.

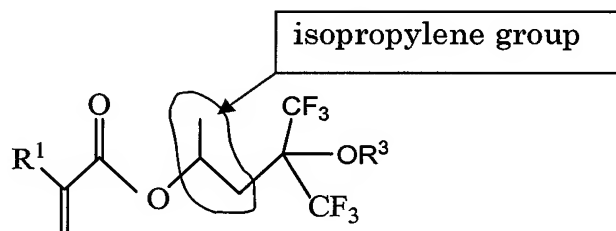
Responsive to the requirement for restriction, Applicants hereby elect the subject matter of Group I (*i.e.*, claims 1-5), drawn to a monomer having an acrylic formula (I). Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute non-elected subject matter in one or more divisional applications.

The requirement for restriction, and in particular, the Examiner's assertions made in paragraph 4 of the Office Action, are hereby traversed.

Claim 1 of the present application relates to a polymerizable acrylate compound, which can be a novel monomer for producing a base resin used in the resist field. The polymerizable acrylate compound represented by general formula (1) is a monomer having two hexafluorocarbinol groups (*i.e.*, $-\text{C}(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{OR}^2$ and $-\text{C}(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{OR}^3$) in the molecule and has the unique characteristic of having good copolymerizability with various monomers, as recited in claims 9-13. In fact, general formula (1) has an isopropanetriyl group (*i.e.*, a trivalent group), as shown below.



In contrast, U.S. Patent No. 6,784,312 B2 ("Miyazawa") discloses isopropylene group (a bivalent group) as an example of R^2 in general formula (1) of Miyazawa (see column 3, lines 1-3), in which case, general formula (1) of Miyazawa will have the following formula:



As shown in the above formula, when R² in general formula (1) of Miyazawa is isopropylene group (or isopropanediyl group), the number of hexafluorocarbonyl groups (-C(CF₃)₂OR³) is limited to one. Based on the specific examples represented by general formulas (2) to (5) of Miyazawa (see column 3, lines 7-36), n may be 1 or 2 in general formula (4) or (5) of Miyazawa, in which R² of general formula (1) of Miyazawa is a cyclic structure. This conforms to formulas (10) and (16) of Miyazawa (columns 11 and 15), in which n is 2 (that is, the number of hexafluorocarbonyl groups is two). In contrast, the number of hexafluorocarbonyl groups is limited to one in general formula (2) of Miyazawa, in which R² of formula (1) of Miyazawa is an ethylene group (*i.e.*, an acyclic group). This conforms to formula (8) of Miyazawa (column 10). In other words, general formula (1) of claim 1 of the present application is neither disclosed nor suggested by Miyazawa or U.S. Patent No. 7,094,850 B2, which is a divisional application of Miyazawa.

Further, formula (II) or (III) of U.S. Patent No. 7,135,595 B2 contains only one hexafluorocarbonyl group, which is attached to an acyclic group (*i.e.*, n-propylene group in formula (II) and isobutylene group in formula (III)). (See Column 4).

Additionally, formula (10) of U.S. Patent No. 7,105,618 B2, which contains a right-side repeating unit (see column 12, lines 14-47), does not disclose general formula (1) of claim 1 of the present application, in which two hexafluorocarbonyl groups are attached to an isopropanetriyl group.

In conclusion, claims 1-13 of the present application are neither obvious in view of nor anticipated by the cited references, individually or in combination. Therefore, contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, restriction is not proper.


Prompt, favorable action on the application is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the examination of the application.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038788.57306US).

Respectfully submitted,

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